

## **Information of Ukraine with respect to the UN General Assembly resolution 70/42 “Confidence building measures in the regional and subregional context”**

Ukraine’s consistent commitment to strengthening confidence and derivative security for all, including through effective confidence building measures (CBMs), remains unchanged. Moreover, it has been reinforced by Russia’s aggression. Based on this, Ukraine fully shares the vision and recognizes the importance of CBMs laid down in UN General Assembly resolution 70/42 of December 7, 2015 and its other resolutions on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context.

Ukraine continues to support all respective region-wide, as well as the OSCE-wide, sub-regional and bilateral CBMs, has been actively participating in the modernization of the OSCE Vienna Document on CSBMs (“VD”), and advocates expanding the scope of their application. Also, in light of Russia’s hybrid war against our country, Ukraine favors tightening the intrusiveness of these measures, including through lowering the thresholds for notification and observation of military exercises, which, as is known, are often used as means of intimidation and preparation for direct military aggression, especially against neighboring states. Ukraine also favors increase in the number of inspections and the composition of inspection teams, strengthening of risk reduction mechanisms, including through the use of fact-finding missions, and constant assessment of the efficiency of CBMs’ instruments used, including from the perspective of their applicability, usefulness and viability during armed conflict, in order to preclude a repeat of Ukraine’s tragic case anywhere else.

Ukraine attaches great importance to bilateral CBMs with neighboring countries in border areas. To date, Ukraine has entered into relevant bilateral agreements with the Republic of Poland, Hungary, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Belarus, and Romania. Conducting inspections on a parity basis pursuant to these agreements confirmed their practical usefulness for maintaining and deepening of trust, friendly relations and military-political cooperation between involved countries in the interest of enhancing and complementing the European confidence- and security-building process. Starting this year, such inspections will begin with Romania as well.

Noteworthy features of these bilateral CBMs regimes, which may be borrowed by others in CBM’s design or improvement, are: the observation of military activities starting from the tactical level; prohibition of conducting military exercises on a battalion level and above at a distance of 10-20 kilometers from the border; application of CBMs near the border not only to activities of armed forces, but also other power bodies; possibility of extending inspections for an additional period of time and their expansion to battalion-level units.

Regrettably, Ukraine’s former numerous proposals to enter into a similar agreement with Russia were rejected by the Russian side. Also regrettably that Russian Federation has put into an ongoing state of impasse such sub-regional military cooperation and confidence-building arrangements of the Black Sea littoral states as BLACKSEAFOR and CSBMs in the Naval Field in the Black Sea.

Notwithstanding the deteriorated security situation in the OSCE area caused by the current Kremlin leadership’s behavior, Ukraine believes that the experience gained in the OSCE area with the development of the CBMs deserves appropriate attention and, accordingly, that the VD that has generated a great deal of experience in the field of confidence building can serve as a viable example for similar arrangements in other world regions.